

In the Claims:

Claims 1-7, 9-12, and 14 are pending in the application with claims 1 and 10 amended herein and claims 15-20 cancelled herein.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A prosthetic valve in the form of a flap valve which includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the valve only in one direction, the or each flap being made of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal, wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire having intermeshing loops and chainmail.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes a single flap arranged to close against a supporting wall mounted upon a peripheral stent.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes two flaps arranged to close against each other.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 3 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral stent supporting a wall extending at right angles to the plane of the stent and providing two opposed cutouts in which said the flaps are mounted.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes three flaps of similar size, arranged to close against each other.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral rib around the perimeter of the valve.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral stent upon which the three flaps are mounted.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of promoting tissue growth and endothelialisation, minimising the risk of foreign body infection following the fitting of a prosthetic valve in a living subject, said method including the provision of a prosthetic valve in the form of a flap valve, which includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction, in which the or each flap is made of a flexible open work structure of a medically acceptable metal, wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire having intermeshing loops and chainmail.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the or each flap of the valve is coated with an inert degradable sealing material when the valve is initially fitted.

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claims 15-20 (cancelled).